

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a commutator of a rotary electric machine which includes a plurality of commutator segments, a plurality of metal terminal members each of which has a nail to be connected to one of armature coils of the rotary electric machine, an insulating resinous member which supports the commutator segments and the metal terminal member, said method comprising:

a step of forming a first unitary material having nail portions for the plurality of metal terminals and a plurality of arc-shaped members connecting the nail portions at radially inside portions thereof, said first unitary material being flat with the nails extending radially outward;

a step of forming a second unitary material for the commutator segments;

a step of fixing the first unitary material and the second unitary material together to form a pre-commutator unit so that the nails extend radially outward from the periphery of the pre-commutator unit;

a step of inserting the pre-commutator unit between a pair of dies so that the dies hold the nails without a substantial gap; and

a step of charging liquid resinous material into the radial inside of the arc-shaped members in the dies to mold the pre-commutator unit, whereby the arc-shaped members are disposed radially outside an outer periphery of the resinous material of the pre-commutator unit.

2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a step of bending the nails to stay within the periphery of the pre-commutator unit.

3. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first unitary material comprises a plurality of terminal members, and a the plurality of arc-shaped members respectively connecting connect the terminal members.

4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a step of removing the arc-shaped members.

5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of forming the first unitary material comprises a step of forming terminal members that has the nails and a step of forming an intermediate connection member to be disposed between the second unitary material and the terminal members.

6. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a commutator of a rotary electric machine which includes a plurality of commutator segments, a plurality of metal terminal members each of which has a nail to be electrically connected to one of armature coils of the rotary electric machine, an insulating resinous member which supports the commutator segments and the metal terminal member, said method comprising:

a step of forming a first unitary material having nail portions for the plurality of metal terminals and a plurality of arc-shaped members connecting the nail portions at radially inside portions thereof, said first unitary material being flat with the nails extending radially outward;

a step of forming a second unitary material for the commutator segments;

a step of fixing the first unitary material and the second unitary material together to form a pre-commutator unit so that the nails extend radially outward from the periphery of the pre-commutator unit;

a step of sandwiching the pre-commutator unit between a pair of dies without a substantial gap; and

a step of charging liquid resinous material into the radial inside of the arc-shaped members in the dies to mold the pre-commutator unit, whereby the arc-shaped members are disposed radially outside an outer periphery of the resinous material of the pre-commutator unit.

7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a step of bending the nails to stay within the periphery of the pre-commutator unit.

8. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said first unitary material comprises a plurality of terminal members, and a the plurality of arc-shaped members respectively connecting connect the terminal members.

9. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a step of removing the arc-shaped members.

Claims 10-12. (Canceled).

13. (New) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the plurality of terminal members integrally include said respective nail portions.

14. (New) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the plurality of terminal members integrally include said respective nail portions.

15. (New) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the arc-shaped members are removed substantially in the absence of severing the resin of the pre-commutator unit.

16. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the arc-shaped members are removed substantially in the absence of severing the resin of the pre-commutator unit.